

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment claims 1, 18 and 21 are amended and no claims have been cancelled. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 18, and 21 are the independent claims. Example support for the amendments herein may be found at Para. [0029-0030] and Fig. 2 of Applicants' application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has deemed claim 15 as containing allowable subject matter.

Specification

The Examiner objects to the title as not being descriptive of the claims. Applicants have amended the title according to the Examiner's suggestion, as shown above. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the above objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21-23, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 7,102,677 (hereinafter, "Watanabe"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

For brevity, Applicants incorporate by reference Applicants' remarks filed on May 22, 2008. Applicants will concentrate on responding to the Examiner's response detailed on page 2 of the current Office Action.

On page 2 of the current Office Action, the Examiner notes that the language "a single signal, the single signal being received from the respective row line" of previously presented claim 1 "does not limit addition [sic] signals from being used" and that this "language only requires that a single signal from a respective row line is used to transfer the charge." Initially, Applicants note that previously presented claim 1 recited *inter alia*, "transferring the charge to the respective column line based on a single signal, the single signal being received from the respective row line. Thus, "transferring the charge to the respective column line based on a single signal" and "the single signal being received from the respective row line" are two distinctly separate limitations. As such, it appears that the Examiner is conflating and therefore misconstruing the two above limitations. Applicants, therefore respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that this "language only requires that a single signal from a respective row line is used to transfer the charge." Instead, Applicants submit that the above language separately states that only a single signal is used to transfer the charge AND that the single signal is received from a respective row line.

Nonetheless, Applicants have further clarified claim 1 so that amended claim 1 recites *inter alia*, "transferring the charge to the respective column line in response to a single signal without receiving additional control signals, the single signal being received from the respective row line." Applicants previously argued that Watanabe required three separate signals (VTX, VRS and VSE), as shown in Fig. 2 of Watanabe, to transfer the charge from the photodiode 1 to the vertical signal line 16, with only one of the signals coming from a row line. As Watanabe requires three separate control signals, and thus not only the VSE signal, to transfer the charge from

photodiode 1 to the vertical signal line 15, Watanabe fails to disclose or teach “selectively transferring the charge to the respective column line in response to a single signal **without receiving additional control signals**, the single signal being received from the respective row line,” as recited in amended claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Watanabe. Amended independent claims 18 and 21 are at least somewhat similar to claim 1 and therefore patentable for at least somewhat similar reasons. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 13, 14, 17, 22-23 and 25-28 are patentable by virtue of their dependency on one of independent claims 1 and 21. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection to the above claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Watanabe/Yang

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of US Patent No. 6,180,969 (hereinafter, “Yang”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Even assuming *arguendo* that Watanabe and Yang are combinable (which Applicants do not admit), Yang still fails to remedy the deficiencies of Watanabe with respect to claim 1. Dependent claim 5 is at least patentable by virtue of its dependency on independent claim 1. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection to the above claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Watanabe/Prater

Claims 9, 11, 16, 19, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of US Patent No. 5,654,537 (hereinafter, “Prater”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Even assuming *arguendo* that Watanabe and Prater are combinable (which Applicants do not admit), Prater still fails to remedy the deficiencies of Watanabe with respect to claims 1, 18 and 21. Dependent claims 9, 11, 16, 19, and 24 are at least patentable by virtue of their dependency on one of independent claims 1, 18 and 21. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection to the above claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Watanabe/Prater/Yang

Claims 12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Prater in further view of Yang. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Even assuming *arguendo* that Watanabe, Prater and Yang are combinable (which Applicants do not admit), Prater and Yang still fail to remedy the deficiencies of Watanabe with respect to claims 1 and 18. Dependent claims 12 and 20 are at least patentable by virtue of their dependency on one of independent claims 1 and 18. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection to the above claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

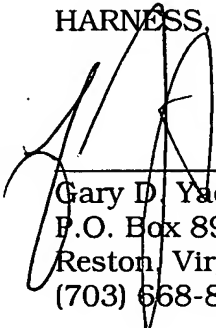
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura, at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNES, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

 #35094

Gary D. Yacura, Reg. No. 35,416
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

GDY/NKP:aem
NP